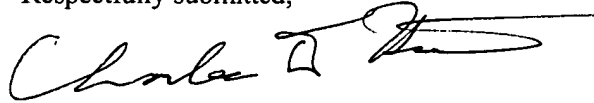


### CONCLUSION

In the present Amendment, claims 1-20 are canceled and Applicants present new claims 21-40 for consideration by the Examiner. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned earnestly requests a telephone conference.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the required fee(s) or credit any overpayment to Conley Rose, P.C. deposit account no. 03-2769/5863-00203.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Huston", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles D. Huston  
Reg. No. 31,027  
Attorney for Applicants

Conley Rose, P.C.  
P.O. Box 684908  
Austin, TX 78768-4908  
Date: 02/04/2004